

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An isolated proteoglycan which is derived from a water extract of cartilage of cartilaginous fish and whose main component has a molecular weight of 500 kDa or more.
2. (Original) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it is insoluble in an alcohol.
3. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has a glycosaminoglycan part mainly composed of chondroitin sulfate C.
4. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has a matrix metalloprotease-inhibiting activity.
5. (Original) The proteoglycan of Claim 4, wherein the matrix metalloprotease is MMP-9, and the inhibiting activity is an effect of canceling a reduction in an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed or an effect of increasing, by at least 5%, an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed.
6. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has an effect of increasing a cathepsin B-inhibiting activity when taken in an effective amount into a living body.
7. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has an activity of increasing the amount of haptoglobin in blood serum when taken in an effective amount into a living body.
8. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the proteoglycan of Claim 1.

9. (Original) The composition of Claim 8, wherein it is for use in an improvement in quality of life.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the proteoglycan of Claim 1 as an active ingredient.

11. (Original) A method of producing the proteoglycan of any one of Claims 1 to 7, comprising the steps of:

pulverizing cartilaginous fish-derived cartilage into a pulverized product with an average particle diameter of 100 μm or less;

adding water to the pulverized product and extracting water-soluble components from it;

separating an aqueous phase that contains the extracted water-soluble components; and

adding an alcohol to the aqueous phase to produce a precipitate.